

Serial No. 10/791

Amendment dated November 8, 2006

In Reply of Office Action dated September 22, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide for positioning extraglottic (EAD) and subglottic (SAD) airway devices insertable in a patient's trachea with minimum throat, esophageal or tracheal injury comprising:

- a) a slender dual function invertable insert having a length from about 30 cm to about 90 cm and a diameter from about 2 mm to about 5 mm depending on the patient's size;
- b) said dual function invertable insert having proximal, intermediate and distal sections integrally connected;
- c) said proximal and distal sections having front and rear portions;

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d) said proximal section's front portion extending from about 0.5% to about 20% of the total length of said slender insert and said distal sections' front portion extending from about 0.5% to about 50% of the total length of said slender insert;

e) said proximal and distal sections' front portion having an end tip;

f) said proximal and distal sections comprising a soft, malleable and ductile material extending from said proximal and distal sections' front portion end tip through said proximal and distal sections' rear portion;

g) said intermediate section positionable in said patient's throat comprising a stiff, malleable and ductile material stiffer than said soft malleable and ductile proximal and distal sections and having a selected hardness of between about 50 SHORE A to about 90 SHORE D;

h) said proximal and distal sections having a SHORE hardness approximately 20% to approximately 30% less than said selected hardness of said intermediate section.

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2(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is in a tube.

3(original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is solid.

4(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said proximal and distal sections' SHORE hardness is constant from said proximal and distal sections' front portion end tip through said proximal and distal sections' rear portion.

5(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said proximal and distal sections' SHORE hardness increases continuously from said proximal and distal sections' front

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portion end tip through said proximal and distal sections' rear portion.

6(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said proximal and distal sections' SHORE hardness increases in a series of steps from said proximal and distal sections' front portion end tip through said proximal and distal sections' rear portion.

7(original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is opaque.

8(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert includes an embedded fiber optic means.

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9(original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert is made of plastic.

10(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said plastic is from the group consisting of a medical grade polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a medical grade silicone plastic, and a medical grade polyethylene.

11(original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1, and wherein:

a) said slender insert includes insertion depth indicating means.

12(original). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 11, and wherein:

a) said insertion depth indicating means includes measuring indicia.

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13(original). An esophageal airway management device guide
as in claim 11, and wherein:

a) said insertion depth indicating means is color
coding.

14(cancel).

15(cancel).

16(cancel).

17(cancel)

18(cancel).

19(cancel).

20(cancel).

21(cancel).

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22(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1 ~~16~~, and wherein:

a) said proximal section is bent at an angle of about from 25° to about 45° with respect to said intermediate section and upon withdrawal is reshaped.

23(currently amended). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 1 ~~16~~, and wherein:

a) said proximal section is bent at an angle of about 35° with respect to said intermediate section.

24(new). An esophageal airway management device guide as in claim 22, and wherein:

a) said bent proximal section conforms to said esophageal management device during insertion and withdrawal.